

## Narrative Summary – August 2015

August 2015 was warmer than normal, averaging 77.9°F, 2.1° above normal (75.8°F). This continues the streak of above normal months with 9 in a row beginning December 2014, and 17 of the last 18 months beginning March 2014. The hottest August (1967) averaged 81.5°F, while the coolest (1964) averaged 69.8°F. There were 20 days in August with maximum temperatures  $\geq 90^\circ\text{F}$  compared to an August normal of 18. There have been 65 days this year with maximum temperatures  $\geq 90^\circ\text{F}$  compared to a normal (through August) of 49 days. This already ties for the 6<sup>th</sup> highest yearly total of temperatures  $\geq 90^\circ\text{F}$  (record is 79 days set in 1967). There were six days in August with maximum temperatures  $\geq 100^\circ\text{F}$  compared to an August normal of five. There have been 28 days this year with maximum temperatures  $\geq 100^\circ\text{F}$  compared to a normal (through August) of 13. This tied the yearly record for maximum temperatures  $\geq 100^\circ\text{F}$  set in 1958. The following temperature record was established during August 2015:

Date	Category	New Record	Old Record	Year
2	High Maximum	107	106	1994
3	High Minimum	76	75	1999 (Tie)

Precipitation for August 2015 totaled a Trace, 0% of normal (0.18 inch). The wettest August (1977) received 1.36 inches, while the driest (1955 and 1988) received no precipitation. Total precipitation for 2015 (through August) is 3.50 inches, 84% of normal (4.19 inches).

The average wind speed for August 2015 was 9.0 miles per hour (mph), which was 1.0 mph above normal (8.0 mph). The windiest August (1996) averaged 9.5 mph, while the August with the lightest winds (1956) averaged 6.0 mph. The peak gust for August 2015 was from the west at 55 mph on August 29. The record wind gust for August was 66 mph in 1961. High winds caused blowing dust (visibility six miles or less) on August 14 and 29. Smoke from regional wildfires caused the visibility to be six miles or less on five separate days (Aug 16, 19, 22, 23, 24).

The summer season of 2015 (June, July and August) was much warmer than normal, averaging 79.4°F, 5.2° above normal (74.2°F) setting an all-time record. This surpassed the previous record of 78.2°F set in 1958. The coolest summer (1980) averaged 70.2°F. The summer's highest maximum temperature was 111°F on June 28. The highest maximum temperature ever recorded at the Hanford Meteorology Station (113°F was recorded on August 4, 1961, July 13, 2002, and July 23, 2006). Summer season precipitation totaled 0.18 inches, 21% of normal (0.87 inch). The wettest summer (1950) received 2.99 inches, while the driest (1973) received only 0.03 inch.

The monthly climatological data summaries, as well as other information, are available on the Internet:

<http://www.hanford.gov/hms>

**Note:** The data in this summary pertain specifically to the Hanford Meteorology Station (HMS), which is located approximately 25 miles northwest of Richland, WA. No attempt should be made to infer meteorological conditions at other locations from these data.